

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD



OFFICIAL OPENING
OF THE
GREENESFIELD
HEALTH CENTRE

27th APRIL, 1938

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE GREENESFIELD HEALTH CENTRE

by

ALDERMAN P. S. HANCOCK,
Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Health and Sanitary Committee,

On 27th APRIL, 1938.

Chairman: The Worshipful the Mayor of Gateshead.
Alderman W. J. Pickering.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS.

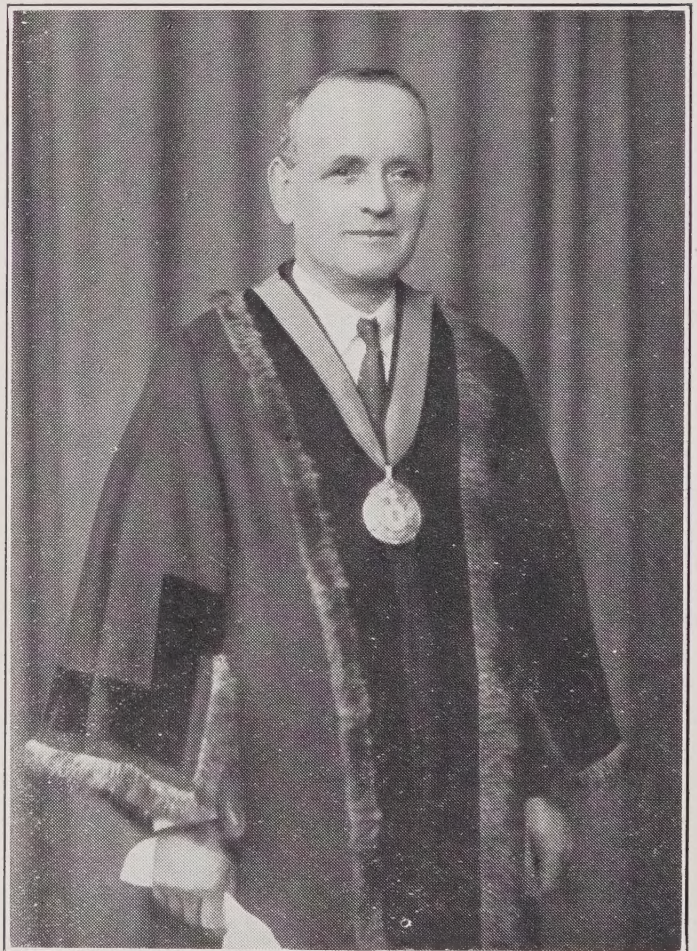
Guests will assemble in the Hall for 3 p.m.

1. DEDICATORY PRAYER by the RECTOR OF GATESHEAD,
Rev. Canon H. S. Stephenson, M.A.
2. His Worship the Mayor, Alderman W. J. Pickering will invite Alderman P. S. Hancock to Open the Centre.
3. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CENTRE by ALDERMAN P. S. HANCOCK,
Chairman of Health Committee and of Educational Children's Care Sub-Committee.
4. REMARKS of C. FORBES-ADAM, ESQ., District Commissioner for Special Areas.
5. VOTES OF THANKS :
To His Worship the Mayor---Proposed by Councillor Mrs. A. Hall, J.P.
Seconded by Councillor T. Armstrong, J.P.
Reply by His Worship the Mayor.
To Alderman P. S. Hancock---Proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Gunn.
Seconded by Alderman W. Horn, J.P.
Reply by Alderman Hancock.
6. INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS.

Refreshments will be served to the guests at an interval in the proceedings.



THE WORSHIPFUL
THE MAYOR OF GATESHEAD
(Alderman W. J. Pickering).

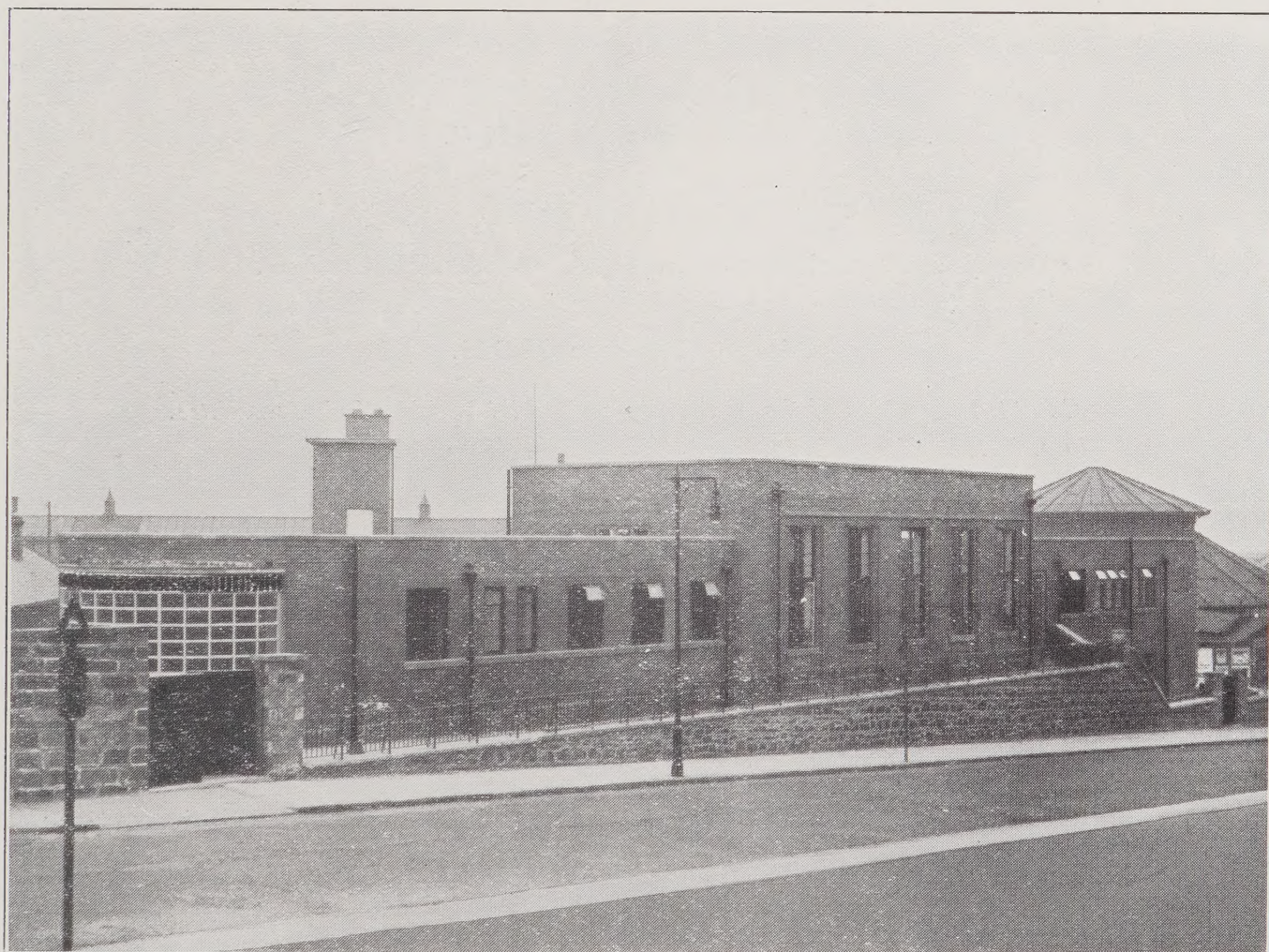


ALDERMAN P. S. HANCOCK.

GREENESFIELD HEALTH CENTRE



FROM ASKEW ROAD.



FROM MULGRAVE TERRACE.

COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL OF GATESHEAD.

Mayor: Alderman William John Pickering. *

Deputy Mayor: Alderman P. S. Hancock. §‡

ALDERMEN.

- * S. A. Ellis.
- * W. Horn, J.P.
- T. Peacock, J.P.
- A. V. Robinson, J.P.
- *‡ T. Ryan.
- *‡ W. Tait, J.P.
- W. E. Wardill, J.P.
- * J. White, J.P.

COUNCILLORS.

- ‡ T. Armstrong, J.P.
- § W. O. Arnold, M.B.
- §‡ W. F. Barron.
- *‡ G. Bennett.
- §‡ Lily Bone.
- ‡ J. Burdon.
- *‡ C. T. Crankshaw, J.P.
- §‡ Ruth Dodds.
- ‡ C. R. Flynn, J.P.
- F. Forster, J.P.

COUNCILLORS (continued).

- *‡ T. Foster.
- *‡ Mary Gunn.
- * M. Hailes.
- §‡ Agnes Hall, J.P.
- §‡ Annie R. Heppell.
- S. A. Heppell, J.P.
- H. Kegie.
- *‡ N. McCretton.
- *‡ J. McVay.
- * G. Neilson.
- §‡ J. G. Orton.
- * J. H. Ritson, J.P.
- § G. Robertson.
- W. Stockton.
- ‡ J. H. Stone.
- *‡ W. Telford, J.P.
- *‡ W. B. Thompson.
- W. R. Tulip.
- * S. G. B. Tyrrell.
- N. Yeaman.

Chairman of the Education Committee :

Councillor Mrs. Mary Gunn.

Chairman of the Health and Education Children's Care Sub-Committee :

Alderman P. S. Hancock.

Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee :

Councillor Mrs. Agnes Hall.

Co-opted Members of the Education Committee :

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mrs. E. Foster. | Mr. W. C. Thompson, J.P. |
| Professor G. R. Goldsbrough. | Mrs. M. Davison. |
| Miss. E. McKinley. | Mr. S. Cooper. |
| Mr. J. Moir. | Mrs. H. Gray. |

Mr. R. Thomson, M.B.E.

Co-opted Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Mrs. M. S. Cheeseright. | Mrs. Morris. |
| Mrs. H. Gray. | Mrs. Parker. |

Mrs. I. Snowdon.

-
- J. W. Porter, Esq., Town Clerk.
 - W. Winter, B.Sc., Director of Education.
 - James Grant, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.
 - H. B. Halford, Esq., Borough Treasurer.
 - F. H. Patterson, M.I.M., and Cy. E., Borough Engineer.
 - H. J. Cook, A.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect.

- * Member of Health Committee.
- § Member of Health Committee and Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.
- † Member of Education Committee.
- ‡ Member of Education Committee and Children's Care Sub-Committee.

Foreword

In the origin of modern preventive medicine in the 19th century, the whole bias was directed to the isolation of disease, the remedy of nuisances and the correction of current social habits. The immediate happy result of this practice was reflected in the fall of the annual national death rates from 23 per 1,000 of population in 1870, to the level of 18 in 1900. Nevertheless during these years, it was noteworthy that the national infantile mortality remained more or less stabilised at a figure varying from 130 to 160 per 1,000 infants born alive.

With the twentieth century came intensive and rapid development of a new trend in the movement, which can be expressed shortly in the statement that health implies something more than the absence of disease and is itself a positive quality of different gradations.

No longer was the public health service centred on environmental influences and the prevention of infectious disease, but its outlook was now fixed on the human organism and bounded only by the limits of human activity. For years two diseases had scourged the child life of the country, infantile diarrhoea and rickets, the latter being known on the Continent as the 'English Disease.' Both were essentially connected with the feeding of infants, the former having to do with the bacterial purity of milk, the latter with the quality. It was well known that with proper methods of feeding infants, these diseases disappeared.

So began the Child Welfare Movement. Infant Welfare Centres were set up in many towns, supported by voluntary organisations, and with the tuition given at these centres on the proper feeding and rearing of infants, the infantile mortality rate began rapidly to decline. In Gateshead some local provision was made by two groups of voluntary workers who established small infant welfare centres, one in 1910 in Coatsworth Road, directed by Mrs. Young, and one held during the War at the Masonic Hall, Jackson Street, directed by ex-Alderman Mrs. Wicks.

The great impetus to the movement came in the last year of the Great War, when, by the passing of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act of 1918, Local Authorities were directed to establish Maternity and Child Welfare Committees and to make arrangements for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under 5 years of age. In 1919, the first Health Visitors to the number of 4 were appointed to serve the mothers and children of the Borough.

Simultaneously with the growth of interest in Child Welfare, which must of necessity include arrangements for safeguarding maternal health, steps were taken to restrict the practice of midwifery to qualified persons, acting under a code of rules, by the passing of the Midwives Act of 1902. Subsequent legislation, culminating in the Midwives Act of 1936, had gradually placed the entire responsibility for the efficiency of local midwifery services on the local authority.

In 1907, the Board of Education, influenced no doubt by pressure from the organised medical profession, had set up under the local Education Committees the 'special service applicable to schools for the protection of the health of the children therein,' which was demanded by Chadwick as long ago as 1861.

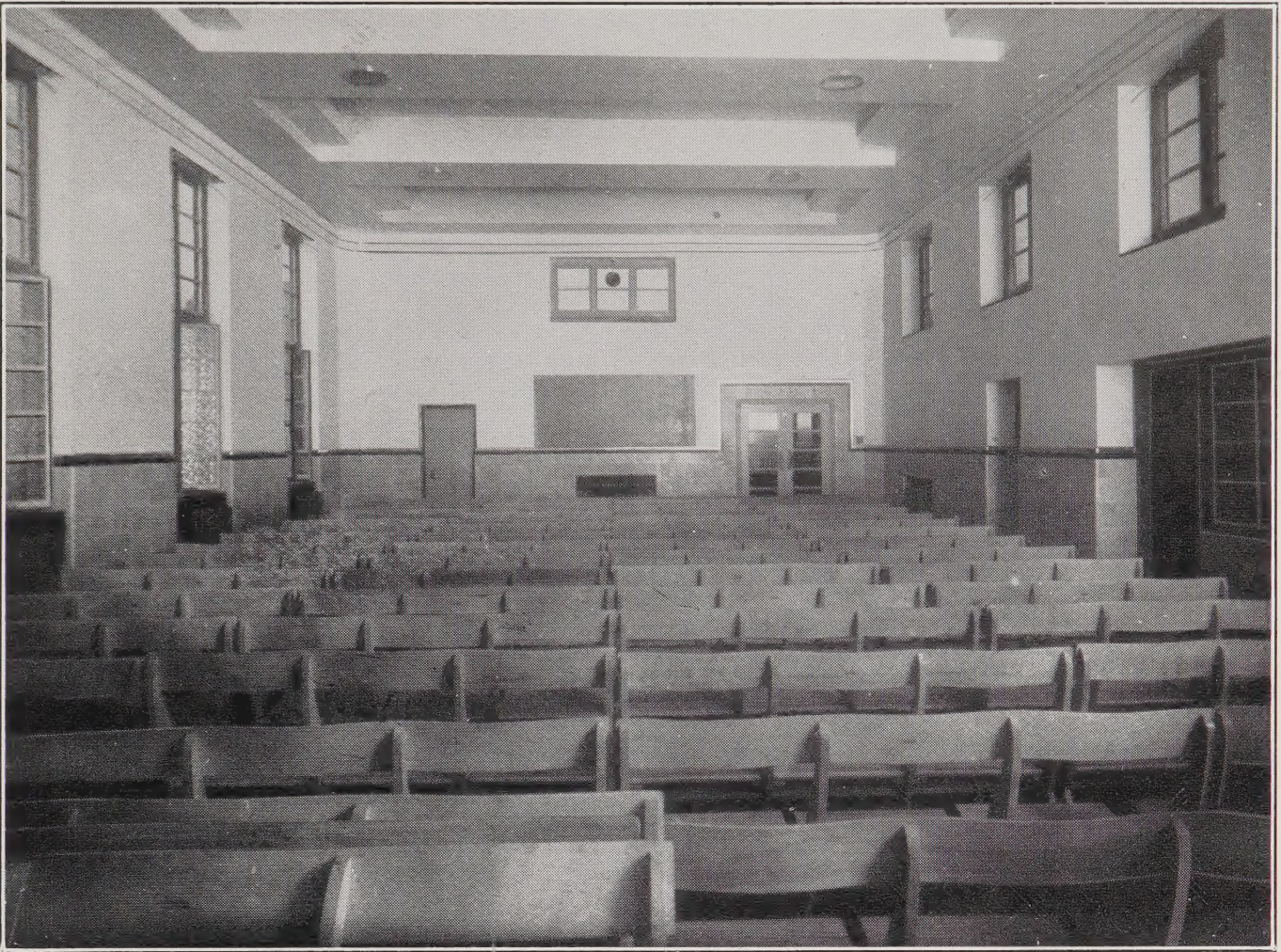
The scheme outlined by the Board of Education included not only the detection of disease by routine medical examination of scholars, but conferred powers on the local Education Authority to treat ill health among school children. In 1909 school medical inspection commenced in Gateshead, Dr. T. M. Clayton, then Medical Officer of Health, being the first School Medical Officer. A whole-time assistant in the person of Dr. W. O. Arnold was appointed to assist him in this extension of his work. In 1914 Miss Bolland was appointed school nurse but soon had to leave for nursing duties in the Army Nursing Service. A small clinic was held at the public health office during the war, at which children were supervised regarding fitness for school attendance.

With the commencement of school medical inspection, it soon became evident that a large amount of preventable illness and disease was current in the school population and interfering with efficient education. Conditions such as impetigo, sores, ringworm and eye inflammation were exceedingly rife, while little was done to check the spread of infectious conditions in the schools.

A fairly large number of children suffered from inherent defects and illnesses which rendered them quite incapable of receiving benefit from ordinary elementary education, while their presence in class caused great difficulties for the teachers. No organised provision was available for cripples, for children with tubercular bone and glandular disease, or for children with sensory defects, such as deafness and blindness.

School children who suffered from delicacy of constitution or from degrees of mal-nutrition were expected to acquire learning at the same rate as their healthy fellows. These features, which were reproduced in every town of the country, indicated the importance of the early extension and development of the facilities for ascertainment and treatment which the local authorities were empowered to set up.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERIOR.

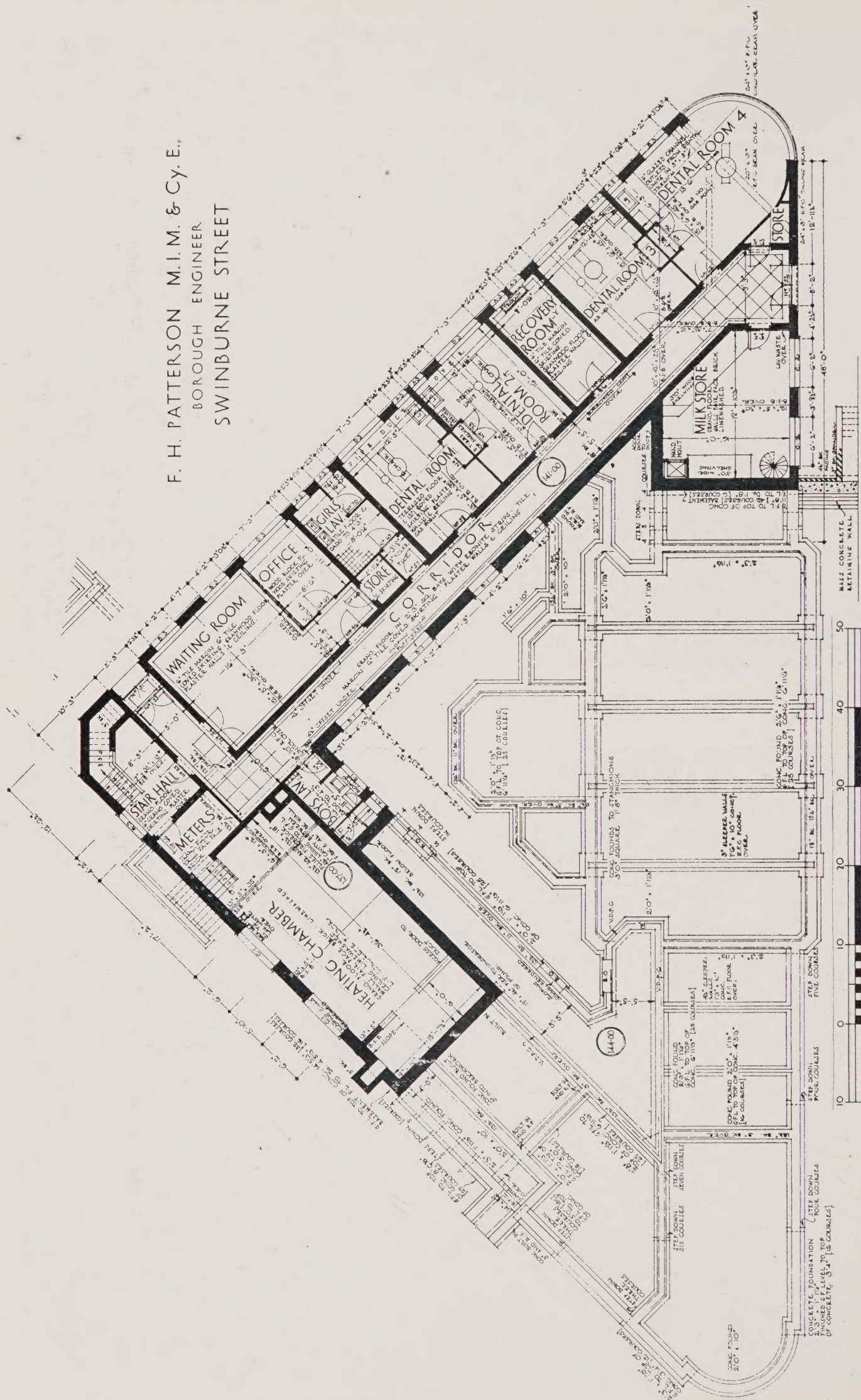


HALL.



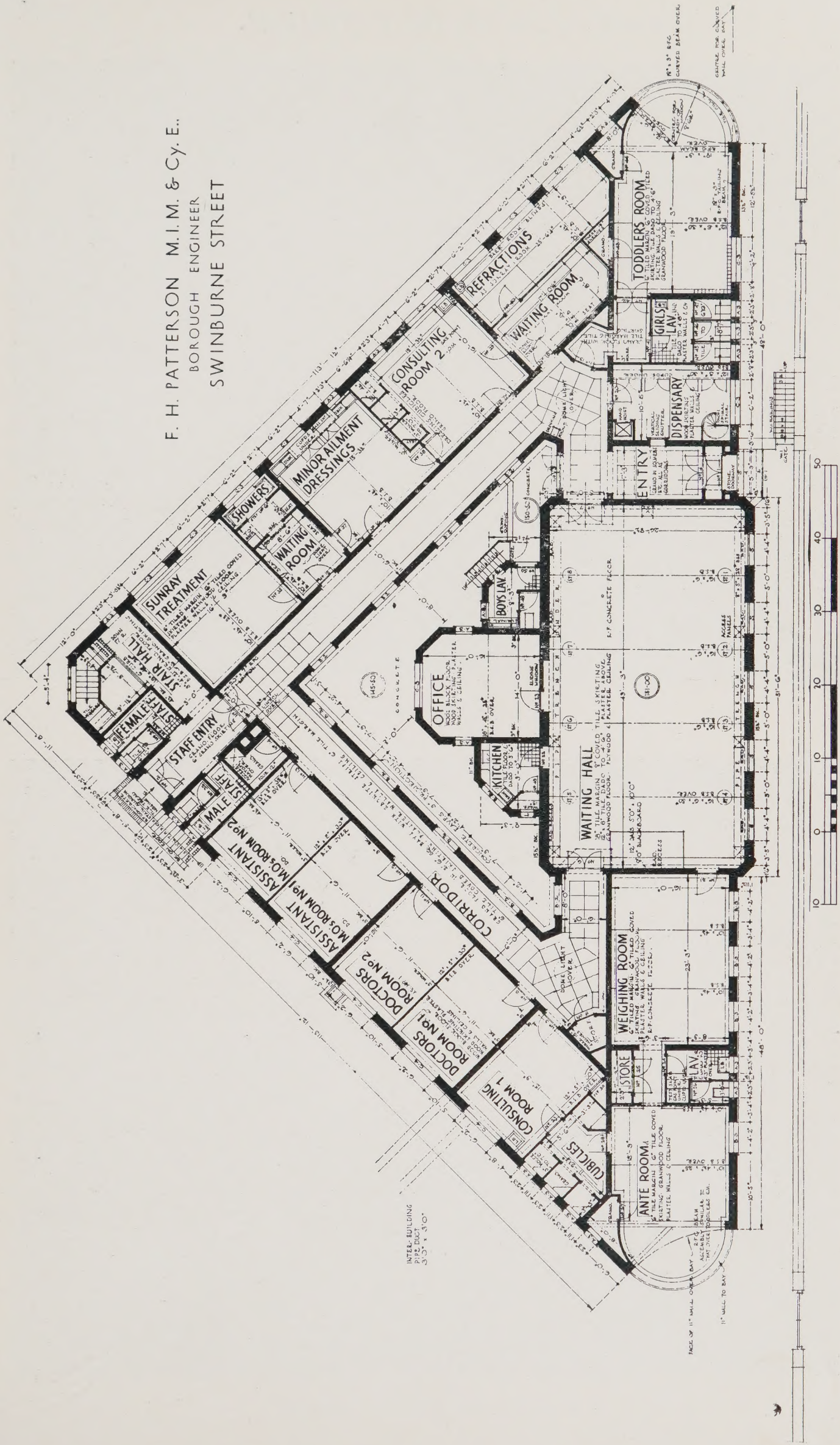
TODDLERS' PLAYROOM.

F. H. PATTERSON M.I.M. & Cy. E.
BOROUGH ENGINEER
SWINBURNE STREET



GREENESFIELD HEALTH CENTRE—LOWER FLOOR.

F. H. PATTERSON M.I.M. & Cy. E.
 BOROUGH ENGINEER
 SWINBURNE STREET

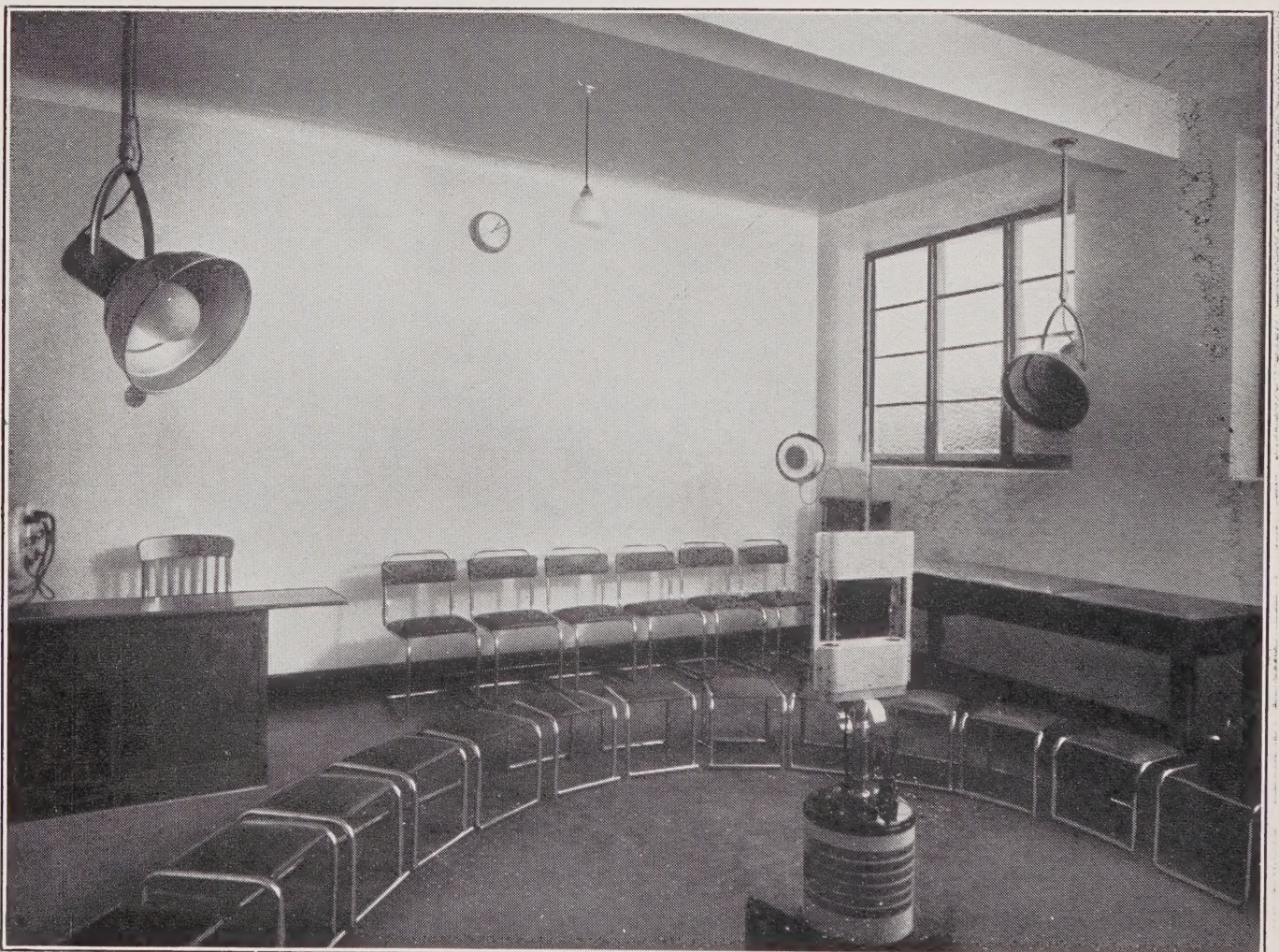


GREENESFIELD HEALTH CENTRE—UPPER FLOOR.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERIOR.



DENTAL TREATMENT ROOM.



SUN-RAY TREATMENT ROOM.

Many special schools and institutions were erected following this experience, both by local authorities and by voluntary organisations, and it became the custom to search out the exceptional children from the school population and arrange for their education under conditions which were favourable.

The foregoing remarks have outlined events prior to 1920, in which year the Corporation transferred the health service from a suite of 4 rooms in Swinburne Street to Greenesfield House, wherein an infant welfare centre and a school clinic for minor ailments were established, and adjoining which the present Tuberculosis Dispensary was erected. At this time two additional whole-time officers were appointed, one for tuberculosis and one for child welfare and school work. Miss Bolland had returned to the service of the local authority as school nurse in 1919, but 3 additional school nurses were appointed to assist her in the work of the clinic. In 1920, the average daily attendance at the school clinic was 14 children.

With the aid of a part-time medical officer, two infant welfare sessions were held each week at Greenesfield House and at Bensham Settlement. The average attendance at these sessions in 1920 was 21 babies.

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS.

From the year 1920, the record of the Gateshead health services has been one of continuous growth and expansion.

In 1921 a special clinic was established for the treatment of visual defects in school children, eye testing being performed by one of the school medical officers. In the same year, the school dental clinic was commenced in a room on the upper floor of Greenesfield House with the service of 1 whole-time dental officer.

In 1922 the nursing services were fused, each of the eight municipal nurses being appointed health visitor and school nurse for an area, while Miss Bolland superintended the work.

So popular did the welfare centres and school clinics become that in 1926, an additional whole-time officer was appointed to replace the part-time officer. There were then 5 whole-time medical officers in the service of the local authority. Ante natal care began in that year under Dr. Herbst, and in 1927 the average of expectant mothers at each weekly ante natal session had reached the total of 8 mothers.

Additional welfare centres were opened at Low Fell in 1928, at Sunderland Road in 1931 and at Wrekenton in 1935, while special classes for school children of backward mentality were commenced in 1926 and 1928.

In 1930 a second school dental officer was appointed to commence a second clinic in Greenesfield House, while in 1934, the sixth full-time medical officer was appointed to cover the expanding work of the two services.

In 1926 the Education Committee decided to erect an open air school, which, after many vicissitudes, was erected and put into use in 1937. This school serves for the care of the many debilitated and delicate children in the town, concerning whom the local economic distress had caused grave anxiety. General arrangements had been in vogue for many years for the giving of free meals to the children of the most impoverished families, but in 1936 the scheme for a daily ration of milk for school children at a trifling cost was established, and special surveys of the children of the Borough for the detection of mal-nutrition have been made every six months since then. Necessitous children with impaired nutrition get the daily ration of milk free.

With the exception of the erection of a wooden army hut, to be used as a school clinic, nothing had been done to develop the quarters available for the concentration of services provided at Greenesfield House, but in 1935 the Commission for Special Areas came into being with the avowed purpose of helping to develop the essential services of towns and areas, which had been hard hit by unemployment following the War. The project for a new building to house the school medical and welfare services therefore took shape and plans were prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education and the Special Areas Commissioner, the site chosen being the vacant triangular piece of ground at the corner of Mulgrave Terrace and Askew Road.

In 1936, Dr. T. M. Clayton, who had been Medical Officer of Health for Gateshead since 1902, and who had co-ordinated the developments listed in the foregoing paragraphs, retired and was succeeded by the present Medical Officer of Health.

In 1936, the 6th infant welfare centre was established at Victoria Road, and in the same year the Midwives Act was passed, setting up a Municipal Midwifery Service under the Local Authority as from 1st August, 1937. In Gateshead, this service, which is managed entirely from Greenesfield House, is supervised by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and covers the work of 15 whole-time midwives, 5 of whom are provided by the Gateshead District Nursing Association under an agreement with the Corporation.

In 1937 a further step forward took place in the extension of the school medical service to include the inspection and treatment of juveniles attending the Junior Instruction Centres and the treatment of minor ailments of children under 5 years of age. To free the medical staff for these functions, the work of the ophthalmic clinic was put under a part-time oculist.

At the end of 1937 an additional whole-time medical officer was appointed to overtake the work of the ante-natal clinics and additional welfare centres, which one medical officer could not possibly perform. Altogether the present professional personnel of the public health department includes 7 doctors and 15 nurses.

The average attendance of children on school days at the school clinic in 1937 amounted to 145, and the average attendance at each of seven weekly infant welfare sessions 66 infants and children. The average number of expectant mothers who attended each of the three weekly ante-natal sessions was 21.

From the commencement of the scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare, a prominent feature has been the sale of dried milk, three well-known brands being stocked. In necessitous cases this milk is sold at considerably less than the cost price. In 1937 no less than 88,397 1lb. packets were sold, while 5,182 gifts of dried milk and various tonic foodstuffs were distributed free of charge as part of the scheme of the National Birthday Trust Fund for the welfare of expectant mothers in distressed areas. Another prominent feature of the local child welfare scheme has been the patient and devoted help given at the various centres by voluntary workers, a fact which serves as a reminder of the origin of the movement.

With the opening of the new health centre, Greenesfield House will be the administrative building of the health department and will house the nursing, clerical and sanitary staff of the Borough.



Description of Building

One of the chief difficulties experienced in the designing of the building was the restricted nature of the site as well as the different levels on Mulgrave Terrace and Askew Road.

The planning had to be carefully thought out so as to avoid the possibility of wasting space. The triangular formation was, therefore, adopted and in doing so the building was made to follow the natural shape of the site. By taking advantage of the difference in levels a two-storey building is erected on the Askew Road site, and direct access is obtained to the Dental Suite which contains Waiting Room, Office for Dental Clerk and Lavatories, and four Dental Operating Rooms are provided in pairs with a Recovery Room between each pair. At the Askew Road entrance, there is also a staircase communicating with the upper floor.

At the main entrance gates to the Maternity unit on Mulgrave Terrace, suitable accommodation has been made for the storage of prams, and the main doorway of the building is reached by means of an elevated terrace. The position of the doorway is so arranged as to allow for the various rooms being approached and used in their proper sequence.

On entering the building, older children can be left in safety in the Toddler's Room, while Mothers and Infants are seen in the Child Welfare Rooms. The Toddler's Room has proper lavatory accommodation, and suitable toys, etc. will be available for the use of the children.

The Waiting Hall which is 50' long and 26' 8" wide is suitable for Public Meetings, talks to Mothers, or lectures to Midwives and Parents. Adjacent to this room there is a Record Office in which the medical records of school children are centralised, and a small kitchen which will be used for the preparation of tea for Mothers, or for social functions. Mothers and children will enter this room, and after reporting at the office will proceed directly to the Weighing Room, through which room the patients pass into the Ante Room. Between the Ante Room and Consulting Room, dressing cubicles have been provided. This suite is dedicated to the medical care of both expectant mothers and young children.

Next to the Child Welfare Department there are four rooms for Assistant Medical Officers, to be used as Consulting Rooms and Offices, each room being entered directly from the corridor.

Along the North side of the building are to be found the premises connected mainly with school health. A small waiting room gives access to the long narrow refraction room, and also to the medical examination room of the School Medical Department, the latter being furnished with cubicles for undressing and examination. Next to the examination room is the minor ailments treatment room, wherein dressings of injuries and sores, and attention to eyes and ears are given by the nurses. A small waiting room adjoining the treatment room serves also as a waiting room for ultra-violet ray treatment, which is provided by the installation of mercury vapour and radiant heat lamps in the adjoining room. Access is also obtained from the small waiting room to two shower baths.

At the Askew Road end of the lower corridor, there is a milk store which communicates by a spiral staircase and a hand hoist with the milk dispensary overhead.

The building is of fire proof construction being mainly built with brickwork and reinforced concrete. The Waiting Hall is partially steel framed, the general furnishings having been designed and carried out in hygienic materials of pleasing colours. An important feature is the jointless flooring provided for all working rooms.

A central low-pressure hot water heating system has been installed in the building, the main boiler being an "Ideal Britannia" No. 411.K, and fitted with "Nu-Way" automatic stoker. An independent domestic hot water "Ideal" H.W. No. 50 Boiler with 300 gallon storage tank is also provided for the supply of hot water to all lavatory basins, showers and sinks, etc., throughout the building. Advantage of this installation has been taken so as to extend the heating and hot water facilities to Greenesfield House, and the T.B. Dispensary.



The General Contractors for the main building were Messrs. A. V. Clerey & Son, Sunderland.

Plumbers	....	Messrs. J. S. Hogg & Son, Gateshead.
Steelwork	....	Messrs. Wright, Anderson & Co., Gateshead.
Painting	....	Messrs. James Burdon & Co., Gateshead.
Terrazzo Floors	....	Messrs. Sweet Ltd., Gateshead.
Bituminous Floors	....	Messrs. Ritz Plazzo Ltd., London.
Flush Doors	....	Messrs. Hills & Son Ltd., Stockton.
Stormproof Windows	....	Messrs. Hills & Son Ltd., Stockton.
Heating	....	Messrs. E. Dixon Barker & Son Ltd., West Hartlepool.
Floor and Wall Tiling	....	Messrs. Sweet Ltd., Gateshead.
Electrical Installation	....	Borough Surveyor's Department, Gateshead.
Reinforced Concrete	....	Messrs. Expanded Metal Co. Ltd., West Hartlepool.
Sanitary Fittings	....	Messrs. Shanks & Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Granwood Floors	....	Messrs. Granwood Flooring Co., Ridding, Derbyshire.
Telephone Installation	....	Post Office Telephones.

Furniture and Equipment :—

Dental Equipment	....	Messrs. Dental Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Newcastle.
Sun-ray Equipment (Hanovia)	....	Messrs. Elliott & Co. Ltd., Newcastle.
Surgical Equipment	....	Messrs. Surgical Manufacturing Co. Ltd., London.
	....	Messrs. C. F. Thackray Ltd., Leeds.
	....	Messrs. Brady & Martin, Newcastle.
Ophthalmic Equipment	....	Messrs. Theodore Hamblin Ltd., London.
	....	Messrs. C. W. Dixey & Son Ltd., London.
	....	Messrs. Curry & Paxton Ltd., London.
Tip-up Seating	....	Messrs. Kingfisher Ltd., West Bromwich.
Tubular Furniture	....	Messrs. British Tubular Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Gateshead.
	....	Messrs. Hoskins & Sewell Ltd., Birmingham.
Office Furniture	....	Messrs. J. J. Boyd & Sons, Gateshead.
	....	Messrs. Wake & Dean, Bristol.
	....	Messrs. Hill & Co. Ltd., Newcastle.
	....	Messrs. Binns Ltd., Newcastle.
	....	Messrs. Bainbridge Ltd., Newcastle.
	....	Messrs. James D. Bennet Ltd., Glasgow.
	....	Messrs. North of England School Furnishing Co., Newcastle.
Weighing Machines	....	Messrs. Mordue Bros. Ltd., Newcastle.
Fire Extinguishers	....	Messrs. J. Taylor Dunford & Co. Ltd., Newcastle.

The approximate costs are :—

Building and Site Works	£14,698	0	0
Furnishing and Equipment	£1,350	0	0
Total	£16,048	0	0

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